

EPA's partnership with SWRCB and investment in Bay Delta water quality

Per Action Item #1 from the June 14, 2013 SWRCB-EPA Coordination Meeting, the following is a description of EPA's Bay Delta Team, the resources we devote to matters surrounding the Bay Delta, and the opportunities for substantive collaboration with SWRCB to advance the Bay Delta WQCP.

The 2013 Bay Delta Team

Valentina Cabrera-Stagno: San Joaquin River-WQS, Central Valley farming, Delta RMP, liaison to NRCS/Regional Water Boards, contract manager for TetraTech.

Erin Foresman: Delta WQS, IEP, BDCP, liaison to federal and state agencies, curator for the Bay Delta webpage on EPA's website, contract manager for the Aquatic Science Center (ASC).

Tom Hagler: Legal & institutional memory for Bay Delta WQS, California Toxics Rule, CVP/SWP, CalFED.

Stephanie Skophammer: NEPA review of Bureau of Reclamation projects including BDCP, Raising Shasta Dam, SJR Restoration, Yolo Basin projects.

Tim Vendlinski: Bay Delta Program Manager, integration of science & policy, X2 & the low salinity zone, wetlands restoration & MeHg remediation, Delta RMP, IEP, SFEI-ASC.

Sam Ziegler: Supervisor Watersheds Office, 319 program, TMDL imp., states & tribes.

EPA Coordinates with Federal and State Agencies for Bay Delta Water Quality

- ❖ Partnered with SWRCB to establish the [San Francisco Estuary Project](#) under the National Estuary Program created by the 1987 amendments to the CWA; the organization continues on today as the [San Francisco Estuary Partnership](#). EPA provides annual funding to SFEP. In FY'2013 approximately \$500K is being provided. At the forthcoming State of the Estuary Conference (OCT 2013), Felicia Marcus will be featured on a panel regarding Delta flows.
- ❖ Co-sponsored the "X2" workshops (1990s) and the [Low Salinity Zone](#) workshop (2012).
- ❖ Administers the [San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund](#) to restore wetlands and watersheds, and reduce polluted runoff in San Francisco Bay. Since 2008, EPA has invested over \$27 million in 48 projects involving 69 partners and leveraging an additional \$103.6 million.
- ❖ Reviews and comment on documents related to the Bay Delta WQCP process.
- ❖ Contracts with the ASC to create visual models to map the location and abundance of fish populations as they correspond to the estuarine salinity gradient.
- ❖ Contracts with TetraTech to run SALSIM model and help refine the Bay Delta WQCP.
- ❖ Supports the establishment of [regional monitoring programs](#) for both the SJR and Delta.
- ❖ Partners with scientists and decision-makers involved with the [Delta Science Program](#), the [Interagency Ecological Program](#), and [San Francisco Estuary Institute-ASC](#) to ensure rigorous science informs environmental policy and management actions for the Bay Delta ecosystem.
- ❖ Issued the [Bay Delta Action Plan](#) (and [Advanced Notice of Public Rulemaking](#)) that together recognize the valuable role played by SWRCB and underscore our support for the update of the Bay Delta WQCP.
- ❖ Coordinates with NRCS to help ensure Farm Bill investments are made to address priority water quality impairments under their [Bay Delta Initiative](#).
- ❖ Participates in various venues to advance the science and policy of MeHg remediation both for the implementation of mercury TMDLs and to enable large-scale wetlands restoration.

EPA Coordinates with SWRCB and Regional Water Boards on 319 and TMDLs

- ❖ SWRCB allocates ~\$4.0 million/year of CWA Section 319(h) funding from EPA to support projects addressing non-point source impacts to surface and ground water. A portion of the annual §319 investments support projects in the Bay Delta Region.
- ❖ Coordinating with the Regional Water Boards governing the Central Valley and San Francisco Bay to implement approved TMDLs (27) and develop additional TMDLs (15) to accelerate water quality improvement.
- ❖ Special concern with TMDLs for mercury (in the Bay and Delta) and selenium as they affect decisions about the recovery and restoration of fisheries and wetlands, respectively.

Opportunities for Substantive Collaboration with SWRCB on the Bay Delta WQCP

EPA and SWRCB staff conferred regarding upcoming meetings about the State's strategic workplan process (SWRCB, RB2 & RB5) and on the WQCP process (SWRCB staff & managers). As initial steps, EPA attended the AUG 8th Bay-Delta Senior's Meeting & Bay-Delta Team Meeting (SWRCB only), and plans to attend upcoming the Bay-Delta Team Meeting (SWRCB, RB2 & RB5) on SEPT 19th; NOV 21st.